

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Status

This is an Amendment and Reply to the Final Office Action mailed November 13, 2008, in which the following rejections were set forth: Claims 1-4, 7-10, and 13-18 were rejected were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishimaru* (EP 0568822) in view of *Huh* (KR 20030075939A); and, Claims 5, 6, 11, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Ishimaru* in view of *Huh* as applied to claims 5, 7, and further in view of *Thompson* (US 5,983,421).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the professional courtesies extended in a telephone interview with Applicant's counsel on January 28, 2009.

By this reply, Claims 1, 7, and 15-18 have been amended, and no claims have been added or canceled. As, such, Claim 1-18 are pending in this application.

The amendments to Claims 1, 7, and 15-18 are fully supported by the application as originally filed and no new matter has been added.

§ 103(a) Claim Rejections

Ishimaru in view of *Huh*

Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 7 in accordance with the amendments discussed with the Examiner in the January 28, 2009 interview. As discussed in that interview, neither *Ishimaru* nor *Huh* disclose “a supply line for introducing air from the atmosphere into the drying chamber” or that “the air exits the fuel cell at a temperature of at least 600°C” as required by amended independent Claims 1 and 7, respectively.

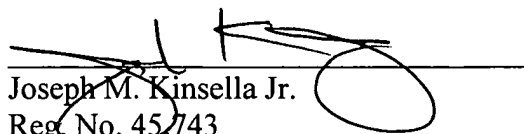
Applicant therefore asserts that the cited prior art does not disclose each and every element of Claims 1 and 7 and requests that the rejections of Claims 1 and 7 be removed. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1 and 7—as well as Claims 2-6 and 8-18 by virtue of their respective ultimate dependence there from—be allowed to issue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all rejections be removed and all pending claims be passed to issue. Applicant has included the fee for a one month extension of time herewith. If any additional fees are required with this communication, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to deduct such fees from Deposit Account No. 50-0545.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: May 5, 2009


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